

**Why Do We Sin?**

# What Is Sin?

- **1John 3:4 - “Whoever commits sin also commits lawlessness, and sin is lawlessness.”**
- **James 4:17 - “Therefore, to him who knows to do good and does not do it, to him it is sin.”**
- **2John 9 - “Whoever transgresses and does not abide in the doctrine of Christ does not have God. He who abides in the doctrine of Christ has both the Father and the Son.”**

# What Are Sin's Effects?

- **Matt. 7:22-23 - “Many will say to Me in that day, ‘Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in Your name, cast out demons in Your name, and done many wonders in Your name?’ 23 And then I will declare to them, ‘I never knew you; depart from Me, you who practice lawlessness!’”**
- **Isa. 59:2 - “But your iniquities have separated you from your God; And your sins have hidden His face from you, So that He will not hear.”**
- **2Thes. 3:6 - “But we command you, brethren, in the name of our Lord Jesus Christ, that you withdraw from every brother who walks disorderly and not according to the tradition which he received from us.”**

# Who Commits Sin?

- All, including Christians; but they must not practice sin.
  - 1John 1:7-10 - “But if we walk in the light as He is in the light, we have fellowship with one another, and the blood of Jesus Christ His Son cleanses us from all sin. 8 If we say that we have no sin, we deceive ourselves, and the truth is not in us. 9 If we confess our sins, He is faithful and just to forgive us our sins and to cleanse us from all unrighteousness. 10 If we say that we have not sinned, we make Him a liar, and His word is not in us.”

# Who Commits Sin?

- **1John 3:8-10 - “He who sins is of the devil, for the devil has sinned from the beginning. For this purpose the Son of God was manifested, that He might destroy the works of the devil.  
9 Whoever has been born of God does not sin, for His seed remains in him; and he cannot sin, because he has been born of God.  
10 In this the children of God and the children of the devil are manifest: Whoever does not practice righteousness is not of God, nor is he who does not love his brother.”**

# We Do Not Have To Sin

- Joshua 24:15 - “And if it seems evil to you to serve the LORD, choose for yourselves this day whom you will serve, whether the gods which your fathers served that were on the other side of the River, or the gods of the Amorites, in whose land you dwell. But as for me and my house, we will serve the LORD.”
- Gen. 1:26 - “Then God said, ‘Let Us make man in Our image, according to Our likeness...’”
- Gen. 2:15-17
- Gen. 3:1-6

# Sin Is Not Inherited

- **Ez. 18:10-18**
- **Ez. 18:20 - “The soul who sins shall die. The son shall not bear the guilt of the father, nor the father bear the guilt of the son. The righteousness of the righteous shall be upon himself, and the wickedness of the wicked shall be upon himself.”**
- **Gen. 3:16-19**
- **Rom. 5:19 - “For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so also by one Man's obedience many will be made righteous.”**

# Some Sin Through Ignorance

- Athens

- Acts 17:23, 30-31 - “For as I was passing through and considering the objects of your worship, I even found an altar with this inscription: ‘TO THE UNKNOWN GOD.’ Therefore, the One whom you worship without knowing, Him I proclaim to you... 30 Truly, these times of ignorance God overlooked, but now commands all men everywhere to repent, 31 because He has appointed a day on which He will judge the world in righteousness by the Man whom He has ordained. He has given assurance of this to all by raising Him from the dead.”



# Some Sin Through Ignorance

- **Saul**

- Acts 26:9 - “Indeed, I myself thought I must do many things contrary to the name of Jesus of Nazareth.”
- Acts 23:1 - “Then Paul, looking earnestly at the council, said, ‘Men and brethren, I have lived in all good conscience before God until this day.’”
- 1Tim. 1:13 - “Although I was formerly a blasphemer, a persecutor, and an insolent man; but I obtained mercy because I did it ignorantly in unbelief.”
- Acts 22:16 - “And now why are you waiting? Arise and be baptized, and wash away your sins, calling on the name of the Lord.”

# Some Sin Deliberately

- **John 3:19-21 - “And this is the condemnation, that the light has come into the world, and men loved darkness rather than light, because their deeds were evil. 20 For everyone practicing evil hates the light and does not come to the light, lest his deeds should be exposed. 21 But he who does the truth comes to the light, that his deeds may be clearly seen, that they have been done in God.”**

# Some Sin Deliberately

- **Willfully**
  - Heb. 10:26 - “For if we sin willfully after we have received the knowledge of the truth, there no longer remains a sacrifice for sins”
- **Willfully ignorant**
  - 2Peter 3:5 - “For this they willfully forget...”
- **Presumptuously**
  - Num. 15:30 - “But the person who does anything presumptuously, whether he is native-born or a stranger, that one brings reproach on the LORD, and he shall be cut off from among his people.”

# Some Sin Deliberately

- **Entertaining temptation**

- James 1:13-16 - “Let no one say when he is tempted, ‘I am tempted by God’; for God cannot be tempted by evil, nor does He Himself tempt anyone. 14 But each one is tempted when he is drawn away by his own desires and enticed. 15 Then, when desire has conceived, it gives birth to sin; and sin, when it is full-grown, brings forth death. 16 Do not be deceived, my beloved brethren.”

- Matt. 5:28 - “But I say to you that whoever looks at a woman to lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart.”

# Specific Reasons For Sin

- **We often sin because we want to.**
  - James 1:14-15
- **We are not watchful or do not think.**
  - Prov. 22:3 - “A prudent man foresees evil and hides himself, But the simple pass on and are punished.”
  - Gal. 6:1 - “Brethren, if a man is overtaken in any trespass, you who are spiritual restore such a one in a spirit of gentleness, considering yourself lest you also be tempted.”

# Specific Reasons For Sin

- **We do not develop self-control.**
  - 1Cor. 9:27 - “But I discipline my body and bring it into subjection, lest, when I have preached to others, I myself should become disqualified.”
- **By being a partaker of other’s sins.**
  - 1Tim. 5:22 - “Do not lay hands on anyone hastily, nor share in other people's sins; keep yourself pure.”

# Specific Reasons For Sin

- **We do not control our thoughts.**
  - **Prov. 15:26 - “The thoughts of the wicked are an abomination to the LORD, But the words of the pure are pleasant.”**
  - **Phil. 4:8 - “Finally, brethren, whatever things are true, whatever things are noble, whatever things are just, whatever things are pure, whatever things are lovely, whatever things are of good report, if there is any virtue and if there is anything praiseworthy--meditate on these things.”**

# Specific Reasons For Sin

- **We do not resist the devil.**
  - James 4:7 - “Resist the devil and he will flee from you.”
- **We do not have the word hidden in our hearts.**
  - Psalm 119:11 - “Your word I have hidden in my heart, That I might not sin against You!”
- **Because of selfishness**
  - Luke 15:12, 17 - “And the younger of them said to his father, ‘Father, give me the portion of goods that falls to me.’ So he divided to them his livelihood... But when he came to himself, he said, ‘How many of my father's hired servants have bread enough and to spare, and I perish with hunger.’”



# **As We Do Not Have To Sin, We Are Fully Responsible For Sin.**

- **Our responsibility and guilt in the scriptures.**
  - Rom. 2:6-10
- **God has given us a book which we can readily understand.**
  - Eph. 3:3-4 - “...as I have briefly written already, 4 by which, when you read, you may understand my knowledge in the mystery of Christ”
- **By trusting in the word, we are able to resist sin.**
  - Matt. 4:1-11

# **As We Do Not Have To Sin, We Are Fully Responsible For Sin.**

- **Why do we sin? Because we want to.**
  - Heb. 3:13 - “but exhort one another daily, while it is called Today, lest any of you be hardened through the deceitfulness of sin.”
- **Even with sins of ignorance, we have chosen not to know.**
  - Rom. 1:28 - “And even as they did not like to retain God in their knowledge, God gave them over to a debased mind, to do those things which are not fitting.”

# **As We Do Not Have To Sin, We Are Fully Responsible For Sin.**

- **Our goal**
  - **1John 2:1-2 - “My little children, these things I write to you, so that you may not sin. And if anyone sins, we have an Advocate with the Father, Jesus Christ the righteous. 2 And He Himself is the propitiation for our sins, and not for ours only but also for the whole world.”**